

**REMARKS**

***Summary of the Amendment***

Claims 1-7 and 17-26 remain pending in the present application.

***Summary of the Final Office Action***

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 and 17-26 over the art of record. By the present Amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

***Amendment is Proper for Entry***

Applicant submits that the present After Final Amendment is proper for entry in that it does not raise any new issues upon the merits of the case for which a new search is required. Accordingly, Applicant requests consideration and entry of the Amendment .

***Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)***

Applicant traverses the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 17-26 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,168,368 to Gow, 3<sup>rd</sup> et al. [hereinafter "GOW"] in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172,214 to Casto et al. [hereinafter "CASTO"].

The Examiner submits that GOW teaches "a plurality of leads 18 each lead including an inner end 18a-n and an opposing distal end, each inner end being disposed adjacent the peripheral edge in spaced relation thereto; and at least one isolated ring structure 24 disposed along the peripheral edge between the peripheral edge and the inner end of the leads in spaced relation thereto . . . ." The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion.

Applicant's independent Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, at least one isolated ring structure disposed along the peripheral edge between the peripheral edge *and the inner ends of the leads* . . . .

Applicant's independent Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, at least one isolated ring structure extending between the peripheral edge of the chip mounting pad *and the inner ends of the leads* in spaced relation thereto . . . .

Applicant's independent Claim 23 recites, *inter alia*, a means disposed along the peripheral edge between *the peripheral edge and the inner end of each of the leads* . . . .

The aforementioned feature is illustrated in Figures 1-4 which clearly show the ring structure 32 entirely positioned between the inner ends 30 of the leads 22 and the peripheral edge 26 of the chip mounting pad. Note that there are no lead inner ends 30 positioned inside of the ring structure 32.

On the other hand, it is noted that GOW teaches a ring structure 24; however, the ring structure 24 *is only partially positioned* between the peripheral edge of the chip mounting pad 13 and the inner ends of each of the leads 16, 18 as best shown in Figure 1. *The deficiency in the Examiner's rejection is that the inner ends of an entire set of the leads, 16a, 16b, 16n are positioned inside the ring structure 24 between the ring structure 24 and the peripheral edge of the chip mounting pad 13.* Hence, it is impossible for GOW to meet the aforementioned features recited in Claims 1, 17 and 23 because GOW teaches the inner ends of the entire set of leads 16a, 16b, 16n as being positioned directly between the peripheral edge of the chip mounting pad 13 and the ring structure 24. Applicant respectfully submits that to simply ignore the leads 16, 16a-n as the Examiner suggests in the Response section of this latest Office Action inappropriately fails to consider the language in independent Claims 1, 17 and 23 regarding the isolated ring structure (in the case of Claims 1 and 17) or the means (in the case of Claim 23) being disposed between the peripheral edge of the chip mounting pad and the inner end of each, and not just some, of the leads.

Because GOW fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-noted features of the present invention, Applicant submits that GOW fails to disclose or suggest the combination recited in at least independent Claims 1, 17 and 23.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 17 and 23 under 35, U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable over the art of record.

Additionally, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-16, 18-22 and 24-26 are allowable for the reason that they depend from allowable independent Claims 1, 17 and 23 and each claim recites additional features that further define the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 2-16, 18-22, 24-26 under 35, U.S.C. § 103(a) and indicate that these claims are allowable over the art of record.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-7 and 17-26 of the present application each meet the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the allowance of such claims.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/11/04

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